Message Text

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STATE PASS TO LAFLEUR, NRC

DOE FOR BORRE AND VANDERRYN,IA

E.O. 11652: NA TAGS: ENRG TECH IT

SUBJECT: U.S. ITALY ENERGY COOPERATION; EXPERT GROUP ON SAFETY

AND ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECTS OF SPENT FUEL STORAGE

REF: A/STATE 28494, B/ROME 13997

1. MISSION HAS RECEIVED THE FOLLOWING NOTE FROM THE GOI: QTE THE MFA HAS THE HONOR TO REFER TO THE NOTE NO. 87 (REF A) DATED 2-10-78 RELATIVE TO THE POSSIBILITY OF A MEETING BETWEEN ITALIAN TECHNICIANS AND EXPERTS OF THE NRC TO REVIEW THE RESULTS OF THE STUDIES MADE BY THE NRC ON THE EFFECTS ON THE ENVIRONMENT CAUSED BY REPROCESSING AND UTILIZATION OF MIXED OXIDE NUCLEAR FUELS.

THE MFA HAS THE HONOR IN THIS CONNECTION TO PROPOSE FOR THESE TALKS A DATE BETWEEN SEPTEMBER 4-8, OR AS AN ALTERNATIVE BETWEEN OCTOBER 16-20, AND IS ENCLOSING THE FOLLOWING BASIC DOCUMENTS:

A) LIST OF SUBJECTS TO BE DISCUSSED; LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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B) BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE CRITERIA EMPLOYED IN ITALY FOR THE DESIGNING OF A CENTRALIZED STORAGE BASIN FOR SPENT FUEL.

C) DESCRIPTION OF THE QUALITY CLASSIFICATION EMPLOYED IN THE STRUCTURAL AND COMPONET SYSTEMS OF THE ABOVE-MENTIONED STORAGE BASIN;

D) TWO DRAWINGS OF THE PLANT LAYOUT IN GROUND PLAN AND

D) TWO DRAWINGS OF THE PLANT LAYOUT IN GROUND PLAN AND SECTIONS.

COMPLEMENTARY CLOSE, UNQTE:

- 2. THIS NOTE PUZZLES US. FIRST THE EXPERT CONSULTATION SUGGESTED IN THE ATTACHED DOCUMENTS SEEMS ONLY TO BE CONCERNED WITH SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECTS OF SPENT FUEL STORAGE; REPROCESSING AND UTILIZATION OF MIXED OXIDE FUELS DO NOT APPEAR TO ENTER DIRECTLY INTO THE DISCUSSION AT ALL. PERHAPS THIS CONFUSION CAN BE EXPLAINED BY THE FACT THAT THE GOI THINKS OF SPENT FUEL STORAGE AS AN INTERIM MEASURE LEADING EVENTUALLY TO REPROCESSING AND USE OF MIXED OXIDE FUELS. FOR WHAT IT IS WORTH, IT WOULD BE OUR GUESS ON THE BASIS OF THE ATTACHED MATERIALS THAT IT WILL NOT RPT NOT BE POSSIBLE FOR NRC TO DISCUSS SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECTS OF FUEL STORAGE WITHOUT EXTENSIVE DISCUSSION OF FUEL STORAGE TECHNOLOGY PER SE.
- 3. SECOND, IT IS NOT CLEAR HOW THE VISIT SUGGESTED RELATES TO THE QTE NUCLEAR EXPERT UNQUTE VISIT MENTIONED RECENTLY DURING BORRE'S TALK WITH AMMASSARI (REFTEL B), IN ANY CASE, WE SEE NO COMPELLING NEED FOR THE VISIT TO OCCUR BEFORE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY DONATCATTINS VISIT TO THE U.S. IN LATE SEPTEMBER.
- 4. WE ARE POUCHING COPIES OF THE ATTACHMENTS TO OES/APT AS WELL AS TO LAFLEUR AT NRC. OUR APOLOGIES FOR THE BAD REPRODUCTION, BUT WE HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO REACH ANYONE AT CNEN (ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY) IN THIS HOLIDAY SEASON TO REQUEST BETTER ORIGINALS. PLEASE INFORM IF BETTER COPIES ARE REQUIRED. HOLMES LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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